

Andrew Bird

Quotes

*Song, Thinking, Writing, Play, Sound, Records, Trying, Fun, Real, Littles,
Believe, Sometimes, Imagination, People, Kind, Bird, Pieces, Appreciate,
Musician, Strong*

I've done my share of busking, and it's fun until it isn't. There are musicians in the subways that will make you cry, they're so good.

~Andrew Bird

I think I'm still a little too intense for my own good sometimes.

~Andrew Bird

Every time I get up in the morning, melodies occur to me and I start trying to shape lyrics to melodies.

~Andrew Bird

I guess I'm attracted to more archaic words because they can be imbued with more meaning, because their definition is elusive.

~Andrew Bird

Sometimes I think I don't have much choice in the matter. It's just what happens, and I'm following my instincts the whole time.

~Andrew Bird

My favorite literature to read is fairly dry history. I like the framework, and my imagination can do the rest.

~Andrew Bird

Songwriters can sort of get away with murder. You can throw out crazy theories and not have to back it up with data or graphs or research.

~Andrew Bird

I think when I was pretty young I got really into the tone of my instrument and I remember just playing one note for an hour to just kind of feel the resonance of the violin.

~Andrew Bird

All the folks I play with come from jazz backgrounds or at least appreciate spontaneity within the parameters of a pop song.

~Andrew Bird

I am, in some sense, a writer. Even though I kinda downplay the word thing, I do enjoy writing sometimes.

~Andrew Bird

I'm a terrible Scrabble player.

~Andrew Bird

There's a lot of interesting words, nomenclatures, in science.

~Andrew Bird

I've always had levity in my songs, so I like to turn things over, twist them around, and make fun of myself.

~Andrew Bird

I really like the sound of analog things where clearly there's something being touched. You can sense that something is handmade. So much with digital, there's a disconnect.

~Andrew Bird

The earth almost looks like it's packed down and dense from so many feet treading over it.

~Andrew Bird

Playing the violin and singing and whistling are just three different ways of making sound.

~Andrew Bird

I've always felt that dark lyrics with dark music is pretty useless. Maybe that's a strong statement - not useless, but for me, it's just boring.

~Andrew Bird

The anti-aging advert that I would like to see is a baby covered in

cream saying, 'Aah, I've used too much'

~Andrew Bird

With digital sound just becomes simply information, not the sum of its parts.

~Andrew Bird

What's cool about indie rock is that one band can do effectively the same thing as another band, and one band nails it, and the other one doesn't. I like that elusiveness.

~Andrew Bird

The problem is, when you're working with orchestras, you only get the orchestra for about two hours before the performance to pull it all together, and that doesn't sound like a real collaboration.

~Andrew Bird

I've never approached classical music in a formal way, ever. I couldn't read very well. I'd have to play every piece and internalize it, almost as if I had written it myself.

~Andrew Bird

I still play solo shows. And some of those shows are still some of the best, most gratifying shows.

~Andrew Bird

It's like you don't know you're making a record unless you're half-killing yourself.

~Andrew Bird

Every time I make a record, it's kind of like scarification or something. You work 15 hours until you're stupid. You're just kind of all jittery.

~Andrew Bird

Sometimes I just think we're not meant to fly halfway around the world in a day. That some kind of mutation is going to happen.

~Andrew Bird

The music that I write is often not necessarily full of doom and gloom. You'll notice in most of the darkest songs, the music is actually pretty peaceful and lulling.

~Andrew Bird

When I'm onstage, I'm completely comfortable, and I feel very vital and alive.

~Andrew Bird

The real drag is trying to fly from country to country, day of show, with all your gear. You get hassled all the time. It's hard trying to keep it together.

~Andrew Bird

Some of my earlier songs are kind of more about mental illness.

~Andrew Bird

You can build up expectations for a song before you record it, and then it's like nothing's good enough in the studio.

~Andrew Bird

Most of the songs that I appreciate are lyrically vague.

~Andrew Bird

With the words, a lot of things start with questions. Some word kind of piques my interest, and I love the way it sounds, but I really don't know what it means. And I honestly don't care for a while.

~Andrew Bird

Norman is a very up-close, personal, character drama and I'd like to do

something more zoomed out, a little more pastoral, some sweeping epic. I'd like to try something different.

~Andrew Bird

I also don't believe that "everything happens for a reason," which is in a similar category of world-views.

~Andrew Bird

I didn't have the patience for the research, or anything like that. I just like how it sets the imagination off. It's just an area that's very fertile for great words. Great metaphors, potentially.

~Andrew Bird

Sometimes the word dictated the melody.

~Andrew Bird

People who are thinking about your music almost as much as you are, that almost never happens.

~Andrew Bird

I really believe there's more honesty in one live show than there may be in my whole output.

~Andrew Bird

I put a lot into my records, and I won't release anything I'm not totally thrilled with.

~Andrew Bird

I don't like to disappear between records. I like to play shows while I'm making the record.

~Andrew Bird

Songwriting requires some sort of ceremony to even get the process started, and it can be somewhat arbitrary.

~Andrew Bird

What you see with your eyes when you're making music is going to have a profound effect on what you hear.

~Andrew Bird

Well, my main instrument is violin, but I think of myself as a songwriter who happens to play violin.

~Andrew Bird

If you take a little time, let's say three weeks off, after recording a song, and you listen to it every other day, you're just going to know eventually.

~Andrew Bird

There is something comforting about going into a practice room, putting your sheet music on a stand and playing Bach over and over again.

~Andrew Bird

Just don't let the human factor fail to be a factor at all

~Andrew Bird

Guitars are kind of just, you know, sexy, especially old vintage ones.

~Andrew Bird

It's not set in stone. I like to keep it rolling and changing, and so I am like, "Great, I get to remake my song."

~Andrew Bird

Honestly, I didn't have the patience for biology or history in an academic sense, but I always liked the kind of big questions.

~Andrew Bird

I don't write poetry and then strum some chords and then fit the words

on top of the chords.

~Andrew Bird

I write a lot more when I'm happy, because you're hopeful, you're motivated.

~Andrew Bird

No, it's not dissatisfaction that inspires me to tinker with my songs, it's just restlessness.

~Andrew Bird

The first notes I still play when I start a sound check are classical. Those are my roots.

~Andrew Bird

The idea of writing songs because you're depressed and you need to communicate it somehow, that isn't really true for me.

~Andrew Bird

The way I work, I'm not a confessional singer-songwriter.

~Andrew Bird

I create little challenges for myself, like, 'Okay, whatever you do in this song, you've got to somehow work in Greek Cypriots,' or something like that.

~Andrew Bird

There's always that struggle between me wanting to keep [song] new and fresh and then be - I can never get with pop songs being so repetitive.

~Andrew Bird

I think life is a wondrous thing. I'm happy to try pretty hard.

~Andrew Bird

I don't like super-descriptive modern fiction. I like, "Here's what was happening in 1582 all over the planet." Then that gets my imagination going.

~Andrew Bird

I just pay attention to what's in my head. That's my number-one rule.

~Andrew Bird

Music as a social conduit has always been important to me.

~Andrew Bird

I definitely have to give myself permission, like on "Master Swarm," to rip a lead on that. Just play a violin solo that's - it's a bit showoff-y, but it's fun, so who cares?

~Andrew Bird

I still kind of believe this absurd line that if you have to write it down, it's not worth remembering.

~Andrew Bird

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